

SPD 592 Credo II, 1 hr/1.5 CEU
Monday, 1:30-3 p.m. *

Instructor Name	Rev. Claudell Hefner County M.A.
Office Hours	Monday 12:30 and 3 p.m.; Tuesday 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. Thursday 2:30-4:30 p.m.
Telephone	work: 816-251-3535 Ext. 2160; home: 816-525-3205
E-Mail	countych@unityonline.org or ccounty@kc.rr.com
Required Texts	none
Other Required Reading	Papers and handouts assigned in class. Downloads from email. Interview Questions
Recommended Reading	Armstrong R. S., (2005) <i>Help! I'm a pastor: A guide to parish ministry</i> . Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to facilitate the student's verbal and written articulation of his or her ministerial credo. In this course, the student is encouraged to review and reevaluate his/her credo and articulate how this credo could be implemented in the various aspect of the student's chosen ministry. The student may be required to respond to critical questioning by a credo review team.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Articulate personal beliefs as they apply to their vision of ministry in both verbal and written format, to both a Unity based and non-Unity audience.
2. Identify how his or her credo applies to both their personal and professional life.
3. Compare and contrast credo with normative Unity beliefs in both content and expression, and mitigate (diminish) any differences.
4. Integrate the Association of Unity Churches International requirements if their vision is for an alternative ministry.

Course content:

- ❑ Review and reevaluate the initial credo. (personal)
- ❑ Describe their ministry in light of their updated credo. (professional)
- ❑ Life-long learning plan for themselves.
- ❑ Development of a servant ministry consciousness in themselves and others.
- ❑ If Alternative ministry, (See instructor) follow the guidelines found on the AUCI website for such ministries and write section describing how credo applies.

Schedule

Week	Date	Topic, Objective, Strategy	Assignments	Paper/Exam/Activity
1	Feb 9	Assign Credo Groups Review syllabus Share your personal Credo I, minus formative factors. Schedule your Credo II reading with your Advisor and instructor. See available schedule.	Review Credo I with Credo Group. Does it still work for you?	Bring your credo I to 1 st class.
2	Feb 16	Overall Ministry Identity People to Serve	Write on the two topics assigned and send copy to your credo group and instructor – so each has time to read <u>carefully</u> before class on Monday.	1. Review what was written for today's topic. Ask questions, and give ideas in credo groups. 2. Discuss topics for next week with whole class. 3. After class, take written work and suggestions and write that section of your credo.
3	Feb 23	Worship Services Pastoral Services	Continue as above	Continue as above
4	Mar 2	Education Administration		
5	Mar 9	Governance Prosperity Consciousness		
6	Mar 16	Spiritual Social Action Developing Leadership & Service CSN		
7	Mar 23	Personal Leadership Lifelong Learning		

8	Mar 30	Self-Awareness Interpersonal Skills		Possible credo II reviews with advisor & faculty. TBD
9	April 6	Self Care Tool Box		credo II review with advisor & faculty
10	April 13	Final Celebration		credo II review

Assignments for the Master of Divinity and Certificate program:

1. Credo group of 2 or 3 students meets outside of class to review
2. Spend time in silence for guidance and discernment of credo ideas.
3. Revision of Credo I due week 2
4. Credo II: The final paper will cover the major areas of ministry and how the student intends to consciously apply his or her belief system. (See attached outline. If Alternative ministry, follow the guidelines found on the website for such ministries and write additional section describing how credo applies. (See instructor for further clarity.)

Credo II will be evaluated by the course instructor and the advisor.

Grading

Assignment	Possible Points	Meets Learning Objective
Revision of Credo I. Due week 2	10	1,2,3
Credo II with Advisor & Instructor	70	1,2,3,4
Credo Group & Class Participation	20	2,4

Final Grade Determination:

90-100 points = A

80-89 points = B

70-79 points = C

Below 70 is failing

Expectations of Students

Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned material and being prepared to discuss it.

Classroom Protocol

To maintain an atmosphere of learning, please be on time, respect each other's ideas, balance speaking and listening, share the center stage, prepare for each class, return from breaks on time, take adult breaks if needed, and take everything to prayer.

Late Assignment Policy

A late assignment, without prior discussion with the instructor, will have a point deducted for each day late.

Attendance Policy

There will be many activities done in class. Please be there. There are points for participation. Excessive absence will be noted and points deducted.

Academic Honesty

Unity Institute assumes that all students desire to pursue their academic and transformational work with honesty and scholarly integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, facilitating academic dishonesty and misrepresentation of self or other students are prohibited. Students may seek the assistance from others as long as the student submitting the assignment is actually doing the work.

If the faculty member discovers a student violating academic honesty, the following penalty may be applied, depending upon the severity of the infraction:

1. A reduced grade for the assignment.
2. A grade of zero for the assignment
3. An "F" for the course.
4. Remand the decision to the full faculty.

A report will be sent to the faculty, the Dean, as well as kept in the student's permanent file.

For further information about academic honesty, students are directed to review the Unity Institute Catalog and Unity Institute Student Handbook.

Special Concerns

If students have any special concerns and/or challenges that may affect their performance in this course, they are encouraged to speak with the instructor immediately so that any accommodations, if necessary, may be made. Please call, email or talk to be before you go to anyone else.

Selected Bibliography

Armstrong R. S., (2005) *Help! I'm a pastor: A guide to parish ministry*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press.

Linn, J. (1995). *What church members wish ministers knew*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press.

Linn J. (1993). *What ministers wish church members knew*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press.

Scazzero, P. (2003). *The emotionally healthy church: A strategy for discipleship that actually changes lives*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Credo II – Thinking Questions

You do not need to answer all of these questions in your Credo.

These questions are posed to help you think through the various aspects of your ministry.

First and foremost, remember you are a spiritual being called to a spiritual life work - working with human and spiritual strengths. How will I consciously take my belief systems into each area of ministry?

MINISTRY IDENTITY

Overall Ministry Identity – pray and seek guidance

What do I see as my ministry?

1. Is it Christian? Does it follow Jesus' teaching?
2. Is it Practical Christianity? It is prayer-based?
3. Church? Center? Alternative?
4. 12 Step? A Course in Miracles? Traditional Unity? Interfaith? Etc.
5. What do I see as my ministry's mission?

People you hope to serve – It's all about the people.

1. Why do you want to serve people?
2. What were the people like who served you?
3. Do you have any of their traits?
4. Who is it for? Age group? Particular group identity? Group location?
5. What people do you feel called to serve? Children, youth, teens, young adults, young families, mid-lifers, aging 60's, retirees, aged, nursing homes, dying (hospice), incarcerated, homeless, recovery, singles, couples, gender, gay/straight, inner city, suburban, country, internet, global???? Who is really calling to you?

Worship Service – pray and seek guidance

1. Overall worship ambience: contemplative, celebratory, traditional, formal, informal?
2. What effect does music have in the service?
3. What is the purpose of the worship service?
4. Is the worship service more instructional, inspirational, connective, transformational, comforting, healing, contemplative?
5. Of the 3 m's (meditation, message, music) which will be more prominent, if any?
6. Where will you place your meditation and why?
7. What will your meditation be like and why? Silent, music background, guided imagery? How long will it be?
8. Where will you place your announcements?
9. What technology, if any, will you use?
10. Ideal music? Varied from week to week? Varied from service to service?
11. Emerging Church ideas?
12. What other creative types of worship experiences might you incorporate in your Sunday experiences?
13. Times of services? Other services?

Pastoral Services – pray and seek guidance

1. Will you have a team of Chaplains?
2. What will you train your chaplains to do, if you have them? Hospital visitation? Counseling? Wellness calls? Visiting? Praying on Sunday? What else?
3. Will you, as the minister, go to the hospital? For whom? When? Under what conditions?
4. What sort of counseling do you see yourself doing?
5. Will you do spiritual counseling? Will you receive a love offering?
6. Will you see them as victim or call for individual responsibility.
7. Will you love them with the caring nature of God
8. Will there be a prayer ministry? What will it look like?
9. Will you hold meditation? Will you teach meditation? Meditation techniques?
10. Will you hold prayer services? Will you teach prayer?
11. Other ideas? What else is important to you?

Education—pray and seek guidance

1. What is your vision for the adult education program?
2. What is the function of the adult education program at your ministry?
3. What kind of classes will you teach when you first arrive?
4. What subjects and books might you teach?
5. What kind of classes and workshops will be held at your ministry?
6. What is important for your community to know through classes?
 - a. What educational programs will you design or have designed?
 - b. What educational programs will you use?
7. What is your vision for the youth education program?
8. Other ideas about youth education, IYOU, young adults?
9. What else is important to you?

STRUCTURE & UNDERLYING CONSCIOUSNESS

Administration * What is Divine Order? What is the relationship between God & Humankind?

1. Who is the administrator/manager at your ministry?
2. What does the administrator do?
3. How does the administrator bring spiritual principles into day-to-day work of the ministry?
4. What else is important to you in administration?
5. Do you hire personnel from within or outside the church community?
6. What is your plan to stay up with technology in the emerging church?
7. As your organization develops, in what way do you see your ministry growing and developing, ideally?

Governance * What is prayer? What is the relationship between God & Humankind? What is Humankind?

1. How is your ideal ministry organized?
2. What is your organizational structure, chart, circles, teams, councils, etc.?
3. What is the balance of power with the board, minister, congregation?

4. How will you build relationship with the board members?
5. How are decisions made? How are decisions challenged?
6. Talk about your bylaws, your policy formation.

Prosperity Consciousness * What is prayer? That are thoughts held in mind? What is an abundant Universe?

1. How are funds raised?
2. What will you teach your board about tithing?
3. Ideally, where will you tithe?
4. What will you teach about prosperity?
5. In hard financial times, what strategies will you use?

Spiritual Social Action * What is an abundant universe? Who are we? Love our neighbor?

1. What is your view about spiritual social action or outreach?
2. Describe four levels of outreach? In which of the levels will you directly engage, if any? (Participation in community councils, boards, ministry councils; community events and activities; direct and continuous social action involvement; and global action.)
3. What are potential in-reach activities in which your church may involve itself: providing support for members, maintaining emergency funds, or what...?

Developing Leadership & Service Consciousness *

1. In what ways do you plan to empower others to serve?
2. What is your model of leadership?
3. What are my corporate values? Integrity, transparency, self-disclosure, etc.
4. What teams might you have and what might they do?
5. Volunteers. How will you find people for your teams? How will you train them?
6. How will you recruit, reward, retain, release them?
7. How do you plan to build leaders in your ministry?
8. What sort of community are you passionate about having in your ministry?

MINISTER'S CONSCIOUSNESS

Personal Leadership * Who am I, really? As myself? "IALAC" I am lovable & capable."

1. What do you see as your leadership strengths?
2. What is your personal mission statement?
3. What is your personal vision?
4. What are your current personal values?
5. How will you continue to develop your leadership skills?

Lifelong Learning

1. How will you keep your interest in the ministry alive?
2. How will you continue your awareness of what is being taught in the world of ministry and by the Association?
3. Do you have future plans for contributing to the movement through service? Through writing? Through serving on teams? How?
- 4.

Self-Awareness

1. How will you continue in your process of self-awareness and objective feedback?
2. By what means will you do self-evaluation?
3. How might I use mentors, coaching, support system, regional supports, classmates and the Association home office?

Interpersonal Relationship Skills - Are we all one? Love ourselves and our neighbor?

1. How will you grow in your interpersonal relationship skills?
2. How well do I relate to diversity, intergenerational awareness, & gender issues?
3. How are people to be treated? Conflict resolution? How do you see people?
4. What is the relationship between God and humankind?

Self-Care * Are we sacred? Do I take time to go to the well?

1. Explain your plan for self-care during ministry.
2. How will you care for body, mind, emotion, & spirit?
3. What systems will you set up from the beginning, in your ministry?
4. What are your self-care priorities

Community – My service and relationship
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1. Unity Institute
2. Unity School of Christianity
3. Association of Unity Churches International
4. International New Thought Alliance
5. The local arena
6. The national arena
7. The global arena
8. The planetary arena - green

Tool Box

1. Finally, what's in your toolbox of skills you've learned and what to remember when you go into the field? You might consider creating a graphic or treasure map of your toolbox to always be with you. Such as the short one I've created as an example below:

